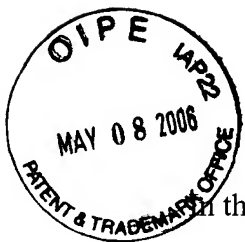


AR/17w



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of)

Customer No.: 24045

NIKHIL R. BAXI,)

Art Unit 3673

GARY E. PROPST and)

Vishal A. Patel, Examiner

ISAAC U. SHILAD)

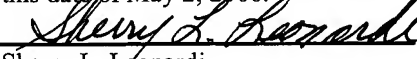
Serial No.: 10/712,920)

Filed: November 13, 2003)

For: CLIP COUPLING)

Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that this correspondence was deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this date of May 2, 2006.


Sherry L. Leonardi

TRANSMITTAL SHEET

Enclosed herewith for filing are the following documents:

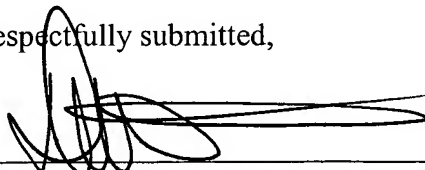
Amendment to the Final Office Action of February 15, 2006 and

Return Receipt Post Card.

AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

The Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 16-0325.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel J. Whitman, Reg. No. 43,987
6035 Parkland Boulevard
Cleveland, OH 44124-4141
Telephone: 216-896-2049
Fax No.: 216-896-4027
E-mail: dwhitman@parker.com

Attorney for Applicant(s)



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

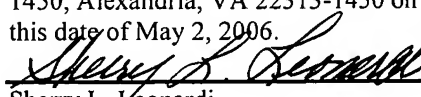
In the application of)
)
NIKHIL R. BAXI,)
)
GARY E. PROPST and)
)
ISAAC U. SHILAD)

Serial No.: 10/712,920)
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Customer No.: 24045

Art Unit 3673

Vishal A. Patel, Examiner

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this date of May 2, 2006.

Sherry L. Leonardi

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated February 15, 2006, the Applicants, through their attorney, respond as follows.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.